

# The Commoner.

Vol. 1. No. 29.

Lincoln, Nebraska, August 9, 1901.

\$1.00 a Year

## A Word to the Disappointed.

In accordance with a call issued immediately after the Ohio convention, a number of democrats met at Columbus last week and registered a protest against the action of the Ohio democrats in refusing to endorse the Kansas City platform. A platform was adopted and a ticket headed by Dr. Reemelin of Cincinnati, was placed in the field. As the gentlemen who attended this meeting are political friends and supporters, the editor of the Commoner feels that he should submit some observations with regard to the action taken.

They have ample reason to feel disappointed at the course pursued by the regular convention. If it had been necessary to fight the campaign entirely on state issues, no reference would have been made to national questions. The fact that the platform devoted more space to national than to local subjects was proof that the excuse given for a refusal to endorse the Kansas City platform was shallow and insincere. The fact that the convention avoided other subjects of present and great importance showed that the silver plank was not the only plank in the Kansas City platform which was objectionable to the men who dominated the resolutions committee. The friends of the Reemelin ticket can be excused for entertaining a suspicion that the men who objected so strenuously to the Kansas City platform would object as strenuously to any definite and positive political remedy. But the question which confronts the loyal democrats of Ohio is how best to correct the mistakes made by the convention and thus rescue the democratic party from the control of those who would republicanize it. The fact that the platform contains much that is good, together with the further fact that the candidates nominated, from Mr. Kilbourne down through the entire list, have been supporters of of the party ticket in recent campaigns, would make it impossible to organize a bolt with any promise of success. The first effect of a bolting ticket would be, therefore, to augment the chances of republican success this fall. The second effect would be to lessen the influence of the bolting democrats in future party contests. It is not fair to assume that the convention spoke for the rank and file in repudiating the Kansas City platform and those who leave the party at this time weaken the reform element of the party and give to the gold and corporation element greater proportionate influence in the party management.

Whether the Ohio democracy is to take its position on the Grover Cleveland side of public issues is a question yet to be determined—a question to be determined at the primaries after the people understand the issues present-

ed. To leave the party at this time is to assume the battle lost and, by assuming it lost, help the enemy. When the fight was made between 1895 and 1896 we had an administration to fight as well as all the banks and railroads; now, many who were against us then act openly with the enemy and those who have returned after a temporary sojourn in the camp of the enemy are handicapped by the record they have made.

There is no evidence that the democratic voters in Ohio favor a non-committal, evasive and ambiguous platform, such as the democratic party promulgated when the Wall Street influences were in control, and no one should assume the existence of such sentiment without positive proof.

Let the democrats of Ohio commend the good parts of the Ohio platform and condemn the weak parts, but let them support the ticket. Then they should begin on the day after the election to so organize the democratic party of that state as to make it impossible for another convention to give as much encouragement to the republicans as the last convention did.

## Fake Interviews.

Just now the republican papers and those so-called democratic papers which spend their time in defending republican policies, are publishing fake interviews with democrats, populists and silver-republicans, calculated to stir up dissensions among those who are opposing the administration.

The meanest and most malicious of the false reports recently put into circulation was the statement attributed to Ex-Senator Towne just after the Ohio convention. In this purported interview Mr. Towne was made to predict the success of the re-organizers, the nomination of Mr. Hill and the breaking up of the democratic party. All of the gold standard, trust and imperialistic papers seized upon this as a sweet morsel, and presented it as conclusive proof of the death of the Kansas City platform.

As soon as this falsehood had time to get over the whole country another enterprising prevaricator came forward with a statement attributed to Mr. J. G. Johnson, the Kansas member of the democratic national committee, in which he was reported as saying unkind things of Mr. Towne and Mr. Webster Davis. The editor of THE COMMONER has become so accustomed to misrepresentation that he puts no faith in these alleged interviews, but he refers to them for the benefit of readers who having had less experience in the political methods of republican and gold papers have been disturbed by them. THE COM-

MONER is authorized to state that both of these pretended interviews were absolutely false. Mr. Towne says that he has not been interviewed on politics within three months and that the report sent out from New York was "a pure fake."

Mr. Johnson is equally explicit in his denial of the interview attributed to him.

The democrats, populists and silver republicans are unfortunate in that they have so few democratic dailies of large circulation. There seems to be a concerted effort on the part of the republican and gold standard papers to mislead the people as to public sentiment, and those who believe in democratic principles and desire genuine reform must rely almost wholly upon the weekly papers or upon the smaller dailies. For this reason it is the more important that the faithful and loyal papers should receive the earnest and cordial support of true democrats.

## Opening a Reservation.

The opening of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache reservations in the Indian Territory is an accomplished fact and the rush for homesteads is over. The disappointed land seekers now have time to reflect upon the situation and to form an intelligent judgment as to the rules governing the distribution of land. In the first place, the administration is to be commended for substituting the plan of drawing by lot for the old plan which made all applicants toe the line and then, at a given signal, enter into a mad struggle to see who could reach a desirable quarter section first. It is much fairer to ascertain how many want to locate on the reservations and then allow those equally entitled to land to draw lots for positions, than to make the selections depend upon fleetness of foot or physical endurance.

But why compel applicants to go all the way to the Indian Territory to file a claim? Why were they not allowed to send their claims to Washington? This would have given every one an equal chance. As it was, only one applicant in thirteen could secure an allotment and yet all the rest (except those who for special reasons were allowed to file their claims by proxy) were compelled to incur the expense and hardships of the trip. As no one knew in advance how many claimants there would be, each person had to risk a considerable sum without knowing what chance he had to secure a home. Those living nearest to the place of filing had the best opportunity, because their traveling expenses were light, and in case of failure to secure land their loss was least.

It was next to impossible for any one to go from a remote state. But the discrimination